

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, FEBRUARY 8, 1945

The Board of Public Works met on February 8, 1945, in the office of the Governor, State House, Annapolis, Maryland.

There were present:

Herbert R. O'Connor, Governor
J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller.

Mr. Walter N. Kirkman, Director, Department of Budget and Procurement, also attended the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of November 22, 1944, copy of which was sent to each member of the Board, were approved.

CHELTENHAM SCHOOL FOR BOYS:

The Board took up the question of site for the new institution for the Maryland Training School for Colored Boys. The only site which the State Department of Public Welfare and the Board of Managers of Cheltenham School for Boys were willing to recommend is the site near Catonsville, being part of the property known as Ingleside, consisting of one hundred acres which are offered to the State by the owners, Ingleside Development, Inc., at a price of \$65,000, the option on the property expiring February 25, 1945.

The Board had advised the County Commissioners of Baltimore County that it would take up for consideration at today's meeting the matter of selection of site for the new school and that the Board would be willing to consider any suggestions the County Commissioners might want to place before the Board relative thereto. The Commissioners were not represented at the meeting, but Mr. Henry Raphael, Assistant Engineer, Zoning Department, Baltimore County, appeared before the Board and stated that since the property it is proposed to use would not conflict with any of the zoning regulations of Baltimore County, no objection would be entered on the part of the County on the selection of the site for the school.

After due consideration it was felt that while the site would be desirable and the Board would be willing to consider the purchase of it, the price asked was considered excessive and that further negotiations should be had with the owners with a view to having them revise the price they are asking for the property.

COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY:

The Comptroller brought to the attention of the Board the fact that the lighting in the offices of the State Comptroller in the Pythian Building, Baltimore, was quite inadequate and that arrangements had been made with the owners of the property, Winter Garden Holding Co., Inc., to assume \$200.00 of the cost of \$427.00 incurred by the owners in the installation of florescent fixtures in the offices in the building used by the State Comptroller's Income Tax Division. The Comptroller recommended that the Board approve payment from the allotment for Rent of the sum of \$200.00 as the State's share in the cost for installing the new lighting.

The Board approved the recommendation of the Comptroller.

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The Comptroller recommended to the Board that authority be given the State Aviation Commission to write-off its property accounts the sum of \$67.00 covering equipment which belonged to the Commission before its present reorganization, an audit of the accounts of the Commission showing that property of the value of \$67.00 was not in the possession of the Commission at the time of the audit, which was made to June 30, 1944.

The Board approved the recommendation of the Comptroller.

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET & PROCUREMENT:

Mr. Kirkman discussed with the Board the matter of lighting at the warehouse of the Department of Budget & Procurement, stating that the present system of lighting is very inadequate and recommended that the Board authorize the purchase of florescent lighting fixtures to be installed with the understanding that these fixtures would be removed and placed in the new quarters of the Department of Budget and Procurement in the State Tobacco Warehouse Building upon the completion of renovations to that building to make it available for use by the Department of Budget and Procurement.

The Board approved the purchase and installation of the fixtures, payment for same to be made out of the allotment to the Department of Budget and Procurement to cover the cost of renovations to the State Tobacco Warehouse Building.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from Mr. Frederic A. Fletcher, architect, calling attention to the fact that the plans for the remodeling in the Court of Appeals Building contemplated building partitions from the surface of the present floor but that it had been found that the floor was not concrete all the way through, but concrete base with cinder filling, sleepers, and wood flooring. The architect stated it would not be proper to start building walls on the present surface and that it would be necessary to cut through the present flooring so that the partitions could be started on the concrete slab underlying the top flooring, the additional cost of which would be \$550.00.

The Board approved the issuing of an extra order by the architect to the Costanza Construction Company, in the amount of \$550.00, to cover the cost of the additional work involved.

DEPARTMENT OF TIDEWATER FISHERIES:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from the Department of Tidewater Fisheries asking for advice as to what should be done in connection with the failure of the Department to realize the sum of \$500.00 which was covered by a check given by a Mr. Benoit who stopped payment on it before it could be cashed, the check having been given as a down-payment on the purchase of the Steamer McLane through the offices of Gielow, Inc. The Department stated that they had been offering to accept the sum of \$250.00 from Mr. Benoit to close the matter but that a letter was received from Mr. Benoit's legal advisors in which they asked to be advised as to the legal basis for the demand.

The Secretary was instructed to refer the matter to the State Law Department for advice.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from the Department of Tidewater Fisheries in which authority was requested to sell the power boat "Mickey", an offer of \$255.00 having been received for the hull. The letter advised the Board that the boat had been seriously damaged during the hurricane last fall; that \$259.50 was received as insurance covering the damage but that repairs had not been made since the boat was quite old and the Department did not feel it was justified in making the repairs to the boat. The original cost of the boat, ten years ago, was \$750.00. The insurance, plus the motor and attachments which were removed, and the \$255.00 which it is possible to obtain for the sale of the hull, would more than equal the original cost of the boat.

The request of the Department that it be authorized to sell the hull was approved.

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Kirkman brought to the attention of the Board bill of S. J. Martenet & Co., dated January 22, 1945, to the Maryland Training School for Colored Girls, in the sum of \$200.00, covering Topographic Survey of site for addition to the Administration Building and New Cottage and Floor Levels.

The Board was of the opinion that the bill seemed to be excessive in comparison with bills received for surveys at other State properties and directed the Secretary to return the bill to the architect and request advice from him as to the amount of the charge.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from the law offices of Gibson, Butler & Wood, of Centreville, Maryland, together with Partial Deed of Release by the State of lien held on certain land at Sudlersville, Maryland, dated November 25, 1914, which mortgage had been given to the State as required by law because of the appropriation by the State of \$7,500.00 in 1914 toward the construction of a school building in Queen Anne's County. The amount of land involved for which a release of the State's lien is desired is one-tenth of an acre.

Since the State's interest in the property is fully covered by the building erected on the remaining portion of the land and there is no occasion for the State to require any consideration in return for executing the release of the lien, or mortgage, it was agreed that the release provided for execution by the State Comptroller be approved.

STATE EMPLOYEES:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a request from Mr. Henry H. Bruns, employe of the Maryland House of Correction, endorsed by the Chairman of the Board of Correction, that he be granted an extension of sick leave under the authority of Chapter 987 of the Acts of 1943.

After due consideration it was agreed to approve an extension of sick leave in this case for a period of three months, from February 13, 1945.

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The Board approved a request from the Commissioner of Labor and Statistics for authority to compensate Mr. Matthew Gibson, Chief Boiler Inspector of that department, for fifteen days' vacation which it was impossible to permit Mr. Gibson to take during the year 1944 as the department has no other inspector in the Boiler Division.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a request from the State Roads Commission that Mr. John W. Prather, Motor Patrol Operator, be granted an extension of sick leave for a period of fourteen days, namely, December 15th to December 31, 1944.

The Board approved this request.

STATE RECORDS:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from the Commissioners of the State Accident Fund requesting authority to destroy certain old records of that agency which are now of no value, and which are fifteen years and more old. Dr. Morris L. Radoff, Archivist, had advised the Commissioners of the State Accident Fund that these records were of no value to the Hall of Records.

The Board approved the request.

STATE ROADS COMMISSION:

The Board approved execution of the following deeds which the State Roads Commission had requested be executed conveying sundry properties which are no longer required for the use of the state roads system. All of the deeds were approved by Special Assistant Attorney General K. Thomas Everngam.

To- C. Philip Nichols, of Anne Arundel County, certain land situate in or near Laurel, Prince George's County;
James V. Williams and Katherine C. Williams, his wife, of Moylan, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, certain land situated in the Seventh Election District of Kent County;
Raymond S. Twilley and Minnie S. Twilley, his wife, certain land in Dorchester County obtained in connection with improvements to the Mt. Holly to Vienna Road;
Newton H. White, Jr. and Rebecca Terry White, his wife, of a certain parcel of land in Prince George's County;
Sadie A. Tate, of Anne Arundel County, certain parcel of land located in Anne Arundel County; and
Emory N. Thrift and Mary A. Thrift, his wife, of certain land in Prince George's County, and shown on the Plat of West Berwyn.

WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION:

The Board confirmed approval previously given to its willingness to have the State contribute one-half of the cost of \$9,211.40 for making certain improvements to the War Memorial Building so that the use of this building could be extended beyond that which has been made of it in the past. The improvements consist mainly of dividing some of the large space so that more rooms will be available to have meetings and other uses it is possible to make of the building. The State's share of the cost of the work, \$4,406.75, is to be made available from the General Emergency Fund.

BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES:

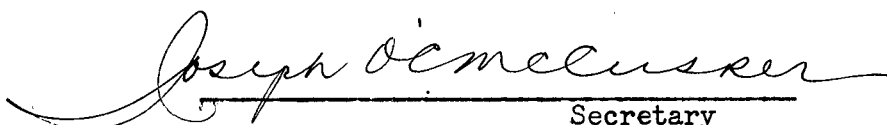
At the request of the Board Dr. Joseph T. Singewald, Jr., Director, Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, was present at today's meeting for the purpose of discussing with the Board the offers which had been received by the State from persons interested in leasing State owned lands in connection with efforts which are being made to locate oil in the State.

Dr. Singewald advised the Board that there were only two of the offers which had been received by the State which were worth considering: one, from Socony-Vacuum Company; and, the other, from Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

Dr. Singewald indicated that the Standard Oil Company offered the better proposition to the State. The company's offer covered the leasing of 82,310 acres, with a guarantee of drilling a well to a depth of at least 5,000 feet within eighteen (18) months of the date of the lease. The company offered payment to the State immediately of \$20,577.50 and annual payments of the same amount while drilling operations are not in progress. In addition, the company would pay a royalty of one-eighth of all oil and gas produced.

After due consideration the Board decided to accept the offer of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and authorized Dr. Singewald to arrange with the company for submitting to the State the usual form of lease in such cases.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary